

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY:EB/AN:JCOOK:DAP

APPROVED BY:EB/AN:RABROWN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

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FOR LEONARD DWOR

FOL RPT STATE 023985 ACTION BEIRUT 31 JAN QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, LE

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: LEBANON - REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF
CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMENT

REF: BEIRUT 895

1. DEPT/CAB HAVE REVIEWED SEVERAL OPTIONS FOR HANDLING
EXPIRATION OF CIVAIR AGREEMENT WITH LEBANON. INTERESTED
PARTIES IN US INDUSTRY HAVE SUBMITTED THEIR COMMENTS TO
CAB WHICH WILL MAKE FORMAL RECOMMENDATION TO DEPT
PROBABLY WITHIN NEXT TWO WEEKS.

2. FYI: LEBANESE REQUEST FOR 1 YEAR EXTENSION IS A
SENSITIVE ISSUE FOR SOME ELEMENTS OF US INDUSTRY. ONE
INTERESTED CARRIER (FLYING TIGERS) BELIEVES THAT NOW
IS PROPITIOUS MOMENT FOR US TO EMPLOY LEVERAGE AGAINST
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LEBANESE AND TERMINATE TMA'S EASTBOUND ROUND THE WORLD

ALL-CARGO AUTHORITY BY LETTING AGREEMENT EXPIRE. ALSO,
UNSETTLED SITUATION IN LEBANON MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR
US CARRIERS TO DRAW UP LONG TERM PLANS FOR MIDDLE EAST
AREA. PAA INTENDS TO RESTRUCTURE ITS MIDDLE EAST ROUTES
THEREBY REDUCING THE IMPORTANCE OF BEIRUT AS PART OF ITS
OVERALL SYSTEM, BUT FAVORS EXTENDING THE PRESENT AGREE-
MENT UNTIL ITS PLANS ARE CONFIRMED. AFTER THE BOARD HAS

CONSIDERED THESE COMPETING INTERESTS AND SUBMITTED ITS
RECOMMENDATION TO THE DEPT, WE WILL ADVISE THE GOL OF
OUR DECISION ON THEIR REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION. END FYI.
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INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, AVIATION AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE023985
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EB/AN:JCOOK:DAP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760041-0717
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760287/aaaacyng.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BEIRUT 895
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: LEBANON - REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMENT
TAGS: EAIR, LE, US
To: ROME
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006